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dealing with some of these problems. But this bill was brought and was supported by this body because the administration, in its budget, in its juvenile budget, did not propose to do and address this problem, and it did not...and it did propose a couple of new ideas. One that was suggested in the report that came out in December, and I told the Governor at that time, and I did introduce a bill to incorporate that because that was his priority, that I wanted to work with the administration in every way I could. I told that to the department last summer, and I offered to do that and I have done that. Along the way there were things that the Governor didn't want in LB 652 that I didn't propose, even though they were suggested to me by judges and others in the system in order to accommodate the wishes of the department. We are now at a point where they have decided that this isn't a priority. It has a price tag in the years out, and it's one that's based on a fiscal note that's just a best guess, it's based on a much lower rate of Medicaid eligible youth than perhaps may be in the system. It's based on what is the statewide Medicaid rate of kids in the system, or the statewide rate of kids who are Medicaid eligible, which is lower than it is in Douglas and Lancaster County. But we don't know exactly what it's going to cost, but it will cost money. But that is our obligation. When we're elected here we have lots of ideas. We have ideas to encourage economic development, we have ideas for the agricultural community, we have ideas for the university system, for public health and so forth, but there are fundamental things that are our responsibility.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: We incarcerate people, we have people in nursing homes, we have people with very, very fragile health. And to me those are our fundamental responsibilities that come ahead of all the other ideas and initiatives. This is not the kind of issue that's going to give anybody a real flashy thing to put on their resume. It's not the kind of idea that's going to generate a lot of interest from the public. This is the inside game, this is our inside responsibility on an issue that's extremely complex, that we don't have large constituencies for, but we need to do what is best for the youth, and they should be, if they are in these kinds of troubles, if they need these kinds of treatment, they need this